



2003 Ohio Election Calendar

J. Kenneth Blackwell, Ohio Secretary of State Primary and Special Elections

2003	R.C. Reference
Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2003 elections may be accepted (first day of the year)3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 4	General election ballots from 2002 except for federal office may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (60 days after the election)3505.31, 42 USC 1974
*Jan. 6	Deadline for voter registration for Feb. 4 Special Election (30 days before the election)3503.19
Jan. 6	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Feb. 20 deadline for filing petitions)4301.33, 4305.14
Jan. 25	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)3501.03
Feb. 1	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Feb. 4 Special Election must be received by the board of elections by noon3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Feb. 3	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of business hours (day before the election)3509.03
Feb. 4	Special Elections may be held3501.01
Feb. 5	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the election)O. Const. XVI,1, 3501.02
Feb. 20	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before the primary)1901.07, 3513.04, .05
	Local questions and issues for primary election, including emergency school levies and local option questions , must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)3501.02, 4301.33, .331, 4305.14, 5705.195
Feb. 27	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (68 days before the primary)3513.05
Mar. 1	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (66 days before the election)4301.33, .331, 4305.14
Mar. 3	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the primary)3513.05
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the election)4301.33, .331, 4305.14
Mar. 7	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (60 days before the primary)3513.05
	Board of elections of most populous county of a multicounty subdivision must certify names of candidates to other boards of elections (60 days before the election)3513.05
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (60 days before the election) ..3501.27
Mar. 17	Write-in candidates for primary must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (50 days before the election)3513.041
*Mar. 24	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (45 days before the election)3513.041
Mar. 25	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for registration (six weeks before the election)3503.12
Apr. 1	Primary Election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before the election)3509.01, 3511.04
*Apr. 7	Deadline for voter registration for Primary Election (30 days before the election)3503.19
Apr. 21	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration lists (15 days before the election)3503.23
Apr. 25	Deadline for political parties, groups of five or more candidates, and issue committees to file witness and challenger appointments (11 days before the election)3505.21
	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (11 days before election)3503.24
Apr. 26	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)3501.03
*Apr. 28	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on primary ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before election)3513.17, .30
May 1	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before election)3513.17, .30
May 3	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the election)3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
May 5	Nominating petitions of independent candidates for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election)1901.07, 3513.257, .261
	Amendments to witness and challenger appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election)3505.21
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election)3509.031
	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of business hours (day before the election)3509.03

2003 Primary and Special Elections - continued

May 6	Primary Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
	Absentee ballots, other than out-of-country voters, must be received by the boards of elections by 7:30 p.m.	3509.05, 3511.11
	Voters hospitalized because of medical emergency may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08
May 16	Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed on or before close of polls on May 6 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election)	3509.05
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on May 6 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election)	3511.11
May 17	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election)	3513.22
May 21	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election)	3513.22
May 22	Local questions and issues for Aug. 5 Special Elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)	3501.01, .02
Jun. 15	Board of elections of most populous county of a district located in more than one county must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections	3513.262
Jun. 24	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for registration (six weeks before special election)	3503.12

Note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Please contact your county board of elections for such information.

*In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the offices are open. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.

Campaign Finance Reports - Primary Election

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2003

Jan. 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports	3517.11
Jan. 31	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2002	3517.10
Apr. 14	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Apr. 24	Pre-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through April 16 (20 days before the election)	3517.10
Jun. 3	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Jun. 13	Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through June 6 (the seventh day before the report is filed)	3517.10

Recounts and Election Contests

An application for a recount must be filed no later than five days after the official results are declared.	3515.02
A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared, or within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	3515.09



2003 Ohio Election Calendar

J. Kenneth Blackwell, Ohio Secretary of State General and Special Elections

2003

R.C. Reference

Jul. 5	Primary election ballots may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (60 days after election)	3505.31
*Jul. 7	Deadline for voter registration for Aug. 5 Special Election (30 days before the election)	3503.19
	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Aug. 21 deadline for filing petitions)	4301.33, 4305.14
Jul. 15	Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions	3513.262
Jul. 26	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)	3501.03
Jul. 30	Protests against nominating petitions must be filed by 4 p.m.	3513.262
Aug. 2	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Aug. 5 Special Election must be received by noon (three days before the election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Aug. 4	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of business hours (day before the election)	3509.03
Aug. 5	Special Elections may be held	3501.01
Aug. 6	Petitions for statewide initiatives to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed by this date (90 days before the election)	O. Const. II, 1a; 3501.02
	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the election)	O. Const. XVI, 1; 3501.02
Aug. 20	Political party or independent candidate's nominating committee must certify name of person to fill vacancy caused by withdrawal of candidate by 4 p.m. (76 days before the election)	3513.31
Aug. 21	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)	3513.251, .253, .254, .255, .261
	Local questions and issues for general election, including emergency school levies and petitions for local option questions , must be certified to the boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)	3501.02, 4301.33, .331, 4305.14, 5705.195
	Municipal initiatives and referenda must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)	731.28, .29
Aug. 28	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (68 days before the election)	3513.263
Aug. 30	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (66 days before the election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14
*Sep. 2	Protests against candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races must be filed by this date (64 days before the election) ..	3513.263
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14
Sep. 5	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (60 days before the election) ...	3505.01
	Board of elections of most populous county of a multicounty subdivision must certify names of all candidates for general election ballot to other boards of elections (60 days before the election)	3505.01
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before the election)	3501.27
Sep. 15	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (50 days before the election)	3513.041
Sep. 19	Boards of elections must file with Secretary of State exemption requests for polling places inaccessible to handicapped voters	3501.29
*Sep. 22	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (45 days before the election)	3513.041
Sep. 23	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for registration (six weeks before the election)	3503.12
Sep. 30	General Election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before the election)	3509.01, 3511.04
*Oct. 6	Deadline for voter registration for General Election (30 days before the election)	3503.19
Oct. 20	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration list (15 days before the election)	3503.23
Oct. 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of five or more candidates, and issue committees to file witness and challenger appointments (11 days before the election)	3505.21
	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (11 days before the election)	3503.24
Oct. 25	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)	3501.03
*Oct. 27	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before the election)	3513.31
Oct. 30	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to Oct. 26 (10 days before the election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before the election)	3513.31
	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before the election)	3513.31
Oct. 31	Last day to file petitions for formation of new political party in order to participate in March 2, 2004 primary election	3517.01
Nov. 1	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02

2003 General and Special Elections - continued

Nov. 3	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of business hours (day before the election)	3509.03
	Amendments to witness and challenger appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election)	3505.21
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election)	3509.031
	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to Department of Liquor Control (45 days before Dec. 18 deadline for filing local question and issue petitions)	4301.33, 4305.14
Nov. 4	General Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
	Absentee ballots, of other than out-of-country voters, must be received by the boards of elections by 7:30 p.m.	3509.05, 3511.11
	Voters hospitalized because of medical emergency may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08
Nov. 14	Out-of-country civilian ballots must be postmarked or signed before close of polls on Nov. 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election)	3509.05
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on Nov. 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election)	3511.11
Nov. 15	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election)	3505.32
Nov. 19	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election)	3505.32
Dec. 3	Applications for absentee ballots for March 2004 primary may be accepted	3509.03, 3511.02
	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with the Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the election)	O. Const.XVI, 1; 3501.02
	Declaration of intent to change party affiliation must be filed by 4 p.m. (30 days before filing deadline for declaration of candidacy)	3513.191 (C)(1)(a)
Dec. 18	Local questions and issues for primary election including emergency school levies and local option questions must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election)	4301.331, .332, 4305.14, 5705.19, .194
Dec. 27	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (66 days before the election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14
Dec. 29	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14

2004

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2004 may be accepted	3511.02
Jan. 2	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (60 days before the primary election) . .	3513.05
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (60 days before the election) . .	3501.27
Jan. 3	General Election ballots from 2003 may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (60 days after the election)	3505.31

Note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Please contact your county board of elections for such information.

*In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and board of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the offices are open. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.

Campaign Finance Reports - General Elections

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2003

Oct. 13	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Oct. 23	Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Oct. 15 (20 days before the election)	3517.10
Dec. 2	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Dec. 12	Post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 5 (the seventh day before the report is filed)	3517.10

2004

Jan. 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports	3517.11
Jan. 31	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2003	3517.10

Recounts and Election Contests

An application for a recount must be filed not later than five days after official results are declared	3515.02
A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared, or within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	3515.09